

# Earthly Elements

"Helpful Information From The Trenches"

Issue 2

Summer Edition

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## THE LORE & LEGENDS of GARDEN GAZING GLOBES

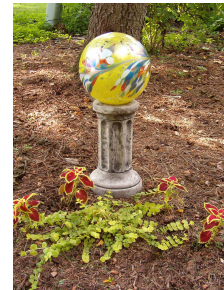


Garden Gazing Globes have many names including garden ball, garden globe, witch ball, butler globe, globe of happiness & Victorian ball.

They have been in and out of fashion in American yards for close to a century. The traditional silver ball best accomplishes the purpose of gazing balls, which is to gather in and reflect the garden. These garden ornaments come in various materials, colors & textures.

The lore of gazing balls is as colorful as the balls themselves. Legend holds that these balls have mysterious powers to bring happiness, good luck & prosperity as well as to ward off evil spirits, misfortune, illness & witches. In olden days in England, it was believed that the mirrored surface of "witching balls" kept indoors would protect the house from witches. In Victorian times, the "butler ball" served as a mirror for servants to see when guests needed assistance without having to stare at them throughout a meal.

In the South, gazing balls were placed strategically near the front gate, allowing the owners to see who was coming, thus providing time to gather refreshments - or to hide if it was necessary.



## DAZZLING DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies are rapidly rising in popularity & that's good news for gardeners! Dragonflies feed on pesky flying insects, particularly mosquitoes. Dragonflies & damselflies both belong to the insect order Odonata. Dragonflies are much larger & hold their wings flat out from their body while at rest. Damselflies are much daintier & hold their wings closed over the top of their bodies.

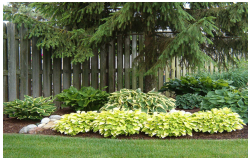
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species' travel from the northern United States and Canada to the southern United States, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

▪ There's many myths about dragon & damselflies, including the story that they'll sew your eyes shut with their needle-like bodies. This idea earned them the nickname "devil's darning needles." Luckily, this is just a myth; these insects are totally harmless to people.



## Foliage:

### A Shade Gardener's Friend

A secret of great shade gardening design is to choosing plants for their foliage as well as their flowers. Here are some guideline ideas to get you started.

#### • Colored Foliage

Add excitement to the garden with colored foliage. As an example, chartreuse golden leaves such as those of some hostas add light to a dim corner of the garden. Purple-red leaves such as those of 'Husker Red' Penstemon are dramatic. Silver foliage such as that of Artemisias helps to blend strong colors especially in sunny gardens and softens harsh contrasts. Silvery tones in foliage like 'Georgia Peach' Coral Bells also impart a feeling of misty softness in garden of subdued colors.

#### • Variegated Leaves

Leaves that have interesting patterns thanks to two or more colors that add a new dimension.

#### • Different Shades of Green

Combine blue-green, gray-green, yellow-green, deep forest green and light spring

its appearance. Lighter greens can be used to bring an area forward visually.

#### • Sizes & Textures

Big bold leaves such as those of Bergenia, Hosta, Ligularia & Rodgersia bring substance & drama to a composition. Delicate feathery leaves such as Fringed Bleeding Heart, Astilbe look airy and light. Spiky upright foliage like that of irises contributes vertical lines that add drama to a collection of low or mounded plants.

## Basil-Chicken Wraps

*Start to finish: 15 minutes*

8 tortillas—plain, tomato or spinach-flavored

1/2 cup Basil Mayonnaise (below)

12 ounces thin sliced smoked chicken or turkey, cut into thin strips

1 large red sweet pepper, halved lengthwise, seeded, & cut into strips

Fresh purple or green basil leaves

Preheat oven to 350°F. Wrap stack of tortillas in foil; heat about 10 minutes or until warm.

Spread one side of each tortilla with Basil Mayonnaise. Arrange chicken slices, sweet peppers, & basil leaves on tortillas. Fold up bottoms; roll into cones. Makes 4 sandwiches.

**Basil Mayonnaise:** In a small bowl stir together 1 1/2 cup mayonnaise or salad dressing, 1 tablespoon snipped fresh basil, & 1 small clove garlic, minced. If desired, stir in 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper. Makes 1/2 cup.

## Strawberry Cream Freeze

**WHAT YOU'LL NEED:** (depending on the version you choose...see choices below & picture to the right)

1 pkg. (8 oz.) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened

1 cup cold milk

1 pkg. (3.4 oz.) JELL-O Vanilla Flavor Instant Pudding

1 1/2 cups thawed COOL WHIP Whipped Topping

20 NILLA Wafers, coarsely broken .

1 cup sliced fresh strawberries

1/2 cup strawberry ice cream topping

**MAKE FILLING:** (Prep time: 25 min.)

Beat cream cheese in a large bowl with mixer until creamy. Gradually beat in milk. Add dry pudding mix; beat 2 min. Stir in COOL WHIP, wafers and berries. Swirl in ice cream topping.

**8" PIE**— Spoon filling into 6-oz. OREO Pie Crust. Freeze until firm. Serves 8.

**WAFFLE BOWLS**—Freeze filling 6 hours or until firm. Scoop into 8 waffle bowls.

**MINI PIES**—Spoon filling into 12 muffin liners. Freeze for 4 hours then remove linings.



## Gardener Gatherings Places To Go Things To Learn



**What & Where**

**Trailwood Garden Club  
Annual Garden Walk**  
**June 28th (Noon to 8 P.M.)**  
call 734-459-7499 for ticket information

**Gardens of Northville  
Annual Garden Walk**  
**July 13th (9 A.M. to 4 P.M.)**  
call Katheryn Novak at 248-348-3263  
for ticket information

**MSU Tollgate Gardens  
Summer Open House**  
**July 16th (10 A.M. to 3 P.M.)**  
call 248-347-3860 for details

**Belleville Garden Walk**  
**July 31st (11 A.M. to 4 P.M.)**  
call 734-699-3291 for more details

Contact us at 734-416-0866 or earthenjoy@wowway.com